

IBNS MOSAIC Chapter Launches

Best African Circulating Banknote 2026 Competition

10th June 2026

The IBNS Mosaic Chapter, a certified substructure of the International Bank Note Society (IBNS), is proud to announce the launch of the **Best African Circulating Banknote 2026** – a public competition celebrating excellence in banknote design across the African continent. The competition invites enthusiasts, collectors, and members of the public worldwide to vote for their favorite banknote from a shortlist of 42 official entries representing every eligible African nation.

About the Competition

African banknotes represent a rich tapestry of history, culture, wildlife, and national identity. The Best African Circulating Banknote 2026 competition was created by the IBNS Mosaic Chapter to spotlight this artistry and foster appreciation for the design and craftsmanship behind the banknotes in everyday circulation across the continent.

Voting is open to the general public – no prior knowledge of numismatics is required. Anyone with access to the Internet can participate.

The **Best African Circulating Banknote 2026** competition will follow the schedule below. The nominated banknotes will be announced on **1 June 2026**. The first round of voting will take place from **15 June to 14 July 2026**, after which a **shortlist of 16 finalists** selected from the first-round winners will be published on **15 July 2026**. The final voting round will run from **16 July to 30 August 2026**, and the results of the competition will be officially announced on **31 August 2026**.

The 42 Competing Banknotes

The competition features one banknote from each participating nation, selected from notes currently in official circulation. The full lineup includes:

- Algeria – 500 Dinars (01.11.2018)
- Angola – 200 Kwanzas (April 2020)
- Botswana – 200 Pula (2016)
- Burundi – 500 Francs (18.10.2023)
- Cabo Verde – 2000 Escudos (27.08.2024)
- Central African States – 10,000 Francs XAF (2022)
- Comoros – 10,000 Francs (2025)
- Congo, Dem. Rep. – 20,000 Francs (04.01.2022)
- Djibouti – 10,000 Francs (2009)
- Egypt – 200 Pounds (12.03.2017)
- Eritrea – 50 Nakfa (24.05.2011)

- Eswatini – 200 Emalangeni (06.09.2023)
- Ethiopia – 200 Birr (2020)
- Gambia – 200 Dalasis (2023)
- Ghana – 100 Cedis (2022)
- Guinea – 20,000 Francs Guinéens (2024)
- Kenya – 1,000 Shillings (2024)
- Lesotho – 100 Maloti (2024)
- Liberia – 500 Dollars (2024)
- Libya – 1 Dinar (2019)
- Madagascar – 20,000 Ariary (2017)
- Malawi – 5,000 Kwacha (01.01.2024)
- Mauritania – 500 Ouguiya (28.11.2020)
- Mauritius – 1,000 Rupees (2024)
- Morocco – 50 Dirhams (2023)
- Mozambique – 200 Meticaís (16.08.2024)
- Namibia – 200 Namibia Dollars (2025)
- Nigeria – 100 Naira (2024)
- Rwanda – 2,000 Francs (28.06.2024)
- São Tomé & Príncipe – 200 Dobras (2020/2021)
- Seychelles – 50 Rupees (2016)
- Sierra Leone – 10 Leones (27.04.2022)
- Somaliland – 5,000 Shillings (2016)
- South Africa – 20 Rand (2023)
- South Sudan – 50 Pounds (2019)
- Sudan – 1,000 Pounds (2024)
- Tanzania – 5,000 Shillings (2025)
- Tunisia – 50 Dinars (2022)
- Uganda – 20,000 Shillings (2025)
- West African States (Guinea-Bissau) – 5,000 Francs (2003)
- Zambia – 500 Kwacha (2024)
- Zimbabwe – 10 ZiG (Zimbabwe Gold, 2026)

How to Vote

Voting takes place exclusively online via the official competition page at ibnsmosaic.org/best-african-circulating-banknote-2026. Voters may cast one vote per person. Full images of both sides of each competing banknote are available on the competition page to assist voters in making their selection. The voting period and deadline will be announced on the website and IBNS Mosaic social media channels.

The Award

The winning banknote will be announced publicly on the IBNS Mosaic Chapter website and social media. The issuing central bank of the winning banknote will receive an official Best African Circulating Banknote 2026 Certificate of Excellence,



formally recognising excellence in banknote design and celebrating the most attractive and innovative banknotes issued in Africa. The certificate will be presented by the IBNS Mosaic Chapter leadership either in person or by post.

Subscription

To ensure that you do not miss any important competition updates, announcements, voting dates, or results, we recommend subscribing to our news and updates on the competition page. Subscribers will receive timely information about each stage of the competition, including the publication of nominated banknotes, voting periods, finalist announcements, and the final results.

About the IBNS Mosaic Chapter

The IBNS Mosaic Chapter is a certified substructure of the International Bank Note Society (IBNS), a global organisation dedicated to the study, collection, and appreciation of banknotes from around the world. The Mosaic Chapter brings together collectors and enthusiasts with a special interest in world banknotes, promoting education, research, and international collaboration in the field of notaphily. Learn more at ibnsmosaic.org.

Media Contact

IBNS Mosaic Chapter

Website: ibnsmosaic.org

E-Mail: contact@ibnsmosaic.org

Competition page: ibnsmosaic.org/best-african-circulating-banknote-2026

— END —